

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, from the thirty-eighth session on, a biennial progress report bringing up to date the study on international conditions and human rights;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*97th plenary meeting
14 December 1981*

36/134. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/123 of 16 December 1977, 33/46 of 14 December 1978 and 34/49 of 23 November 1979 concerning national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Mindful of the guidelines on the structure and functioning of national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/46,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,¹¹⁵

Mindful also of the need to create conditions, at the national and international levels, for the promotion and protection of the human rights of individuals and peoples,

Emphasizing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹¹⁶ the International Covenants on Human Rights¹¹⁷ and other international human rights instruments for promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reiterating its conviction that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent, and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of both civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights,

Noting that the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council have been giving attention to the development of public information activities in the field of human rights,

1. *Invites* all Member States to take appropriate steps for the establishment or, where they already exist, the strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the integrity and independence of such national institutions, in accordance with national legislation;

3. *Draws attention* to the constructive role that national non-governmental organizations can play in the work of national institutions;

4. *Invites* all Member States to take appropriate steps to disseminate the texts of human rights instruments, including international covenants and conventions, in their respective national or local languages in order to give the widest possible publicity to these instruments;

5. *Recommends* that all Member States should consider including material relevant to a comprehensive understanding of human rights issues in their educational curriculum;

6. *Recommends* that all Member States should take appropriate steps to encourage the exchange of experience in the establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in carrying out public information activities in the field of human rights, to give due attention to the role of national institutions and non-governmental organizations concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to Member States, upon their request, in the implementation of paragraph 4 above, high priority being accorded to the needs of developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session a report providing detailed information on the various types of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, taking into account differing social and legal systems and the contribution that national institutions can make towards the implementation of the international human rights instruments;

10. *Recommends* that Member States should bring the present resolution to the attention of representatives of their national institutions;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session a subitem entitled "National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights".

*97th plenary meeting
14 December 1981*

36/135. Alternative approaches and ways and means in the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/175 of 15 December 1980, in which it decided to consider at its thirty-sixth session the question of the establishment of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights under the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms",

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirty-seventh session,¹¹⁸

Noting that the Commission on Human Rights informed the General Assembly that it had not been able to reach a decision at its thirty-seventh session on the desirability of the establishment of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Noting also that the Commission on Human Rights has been seized of this question since its thirty-fourth session under the item entitled "Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and methods of work of the Commission: alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms",

1. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-eighth session to consider this question with the attention it deserves;

2. *Further requests* the Commission on Human Rights to submit a report on its deliberations and their results to

¹¹⁵ A/36/440.

¹¹⁶ Resolution 217 A (III).

¹¹⁷ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹¹⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 5 (E/1981/25 and Corr.1).*

the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Decides* to resume consideration of this question at its thirty-seventh session, also taking into account the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirty-eighth session and the views expressed by Member States at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms" and to examine what steps may be taken in this regard.

*97th plenary meeting
14 December 1981*

36/136. New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Noting with interest the proposal for the promotion of a new international humanitarian order,¹¹⁹

Recognizing the importance of further improving a comprehensive international framework which takes fully into account existing instruments relating to humanitarian questions as well as the need for addressing those aspects which are not yet adequately covered,

Bearing in mind that institutional arrangements and action of governmental and non-governmental bodies might need to be further strengthened to respond effectively in situations requiring humanitarian action,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments on the proposal for the promotion of a new international humanitarian order;

2. *Decides* to consider the question at its thirty-seventh session on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General.

*97th plenary meeting
14 December 1981*

36/151. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/174 of 20 December 1978, by which it established a United Nations Trust Fund for Chile as a voluntary fund to receive contributions and distribute humanitarian, legal and financial aid to persons whose human rights had been violated by detention or imprisonment in Chile,

Recalling also its resolution 35/190 of 15 December 1980, by which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to study the possibility of extending the mandate of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/39 of 8 May 1981 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 35 (XXXVII) of 11 March 1981,¹²⁰

Noting that all Governments have an obligation to respect and promote human rights in accordance with the responsibilities they have undertaken under various international instruments,

Noting with deep concern that acts of torture take place in various countries,

Considering the plight of victims of torture wherever it takes place,

¹¹⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Annexes, agenda item 138, document A/36/245.*

¹²⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 5 (E/1981/25 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.*

Recognizing the need to provide assistance to the victims of torture in a purely humanitarian spirit,

1. *Decides:*

(a) To extend the mandate of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile, established by General Assembly resolution 33/174, in order to make it capable of receiving voluntary contributions for distribution, through established channels of assistance, as humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of torture and to relatives of such victims, priority being given to aid to victims of violations by States in which the human rights situation has been the subject of resolutions or decisions adopted by either the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights;

(b) To redesignate the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile as United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;

(c) That the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees of the Fund, composed of a chairman and four members with wide experience in the field of human rights, acting in their personal capacity, to be appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments;

(d) To adopt the arrangements for the management of the Fund set forth in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General;¹²¹

(e) To authorize the Board of Trustees of the Fund to promote and solicit contributions and pledges;

(f) To request the Secretary-General to give the Board of Trustees of the Fund all the assistance it may require;

2. *Appeals* to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund.

*101st plenary meeting
16 December 1981*

36/152. The right to education

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/170 of 17 December 1979 and 35/191 of 15 December 1980 on the right to education,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by its resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, which recognizes the right of everyone to education,

Bearing in mind the importance of the Convention against Discrimination in Education,¹²² adopted on 14 December 1960 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Reaffirming the paramount importance of the implementation of the right to education for the full development of the human personality and for the enjoyment of other fundamental human rights and freedoms,

Recognizing that for the effective implementation of the right to education the eradication of illiteracy has a particular priority and urgency,

Convinced that the educational process could bring a substantial contribution to social progress, national development, mutual understanding and co-operation among peoples and to strengthening peace and international security,

¹²¹ A/36/540.

¹²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 429, No. 6193, p. 93.